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Senator John Wingate Weeks

[Boston?]

[1916?]

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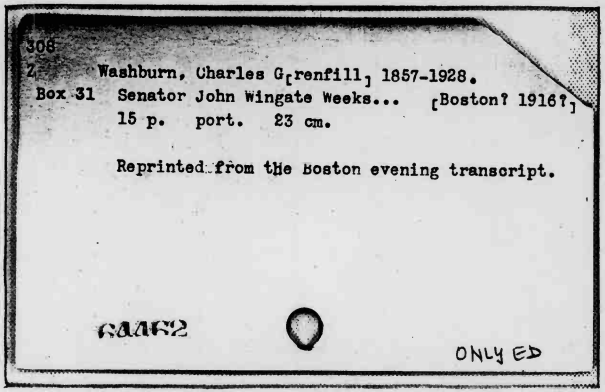

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DATE FILMED: 2-12-97 INITIALS: MS

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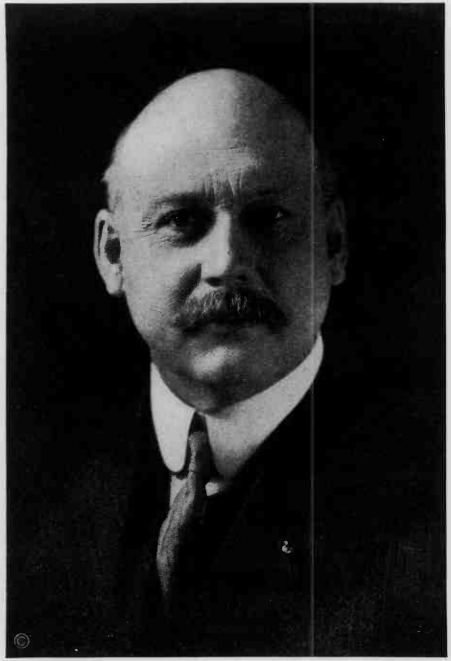

SENATOR JOHN WINGATE WEEKS

Gift of the President

SENATOR
JOHN WINGATE WEEKS

BY

CHARLES G. WASHBURN

Former Congressman from Massachusetts

REPRINTED FROM
THE BOSTON EVENING TRANSCRIPT

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"The Republican Party could not do better than to nominate Senator Weeks, a leader of proved capacity, already widely recognized; honest in thought, persuasive and convincing in argument, calm in his judgments; a man who has been tried in many positions of public trust and not yet found wanting; a man who has that rarest of gifts, the genius of common sense"

"The argument of locality should not be urged for or against a candidate. We are to select a man for the presidency and not a geographical expression. A miracle of science has brought the entire area of our vast country within the sound of the human voice; we no longer contain within our borders warring sections—prosperity and disaster to any one state is shared by all the others. The 'Liberty Bell,' now making its impressive progress across the country, is held in as much veneration in California as in Pennsylvania"

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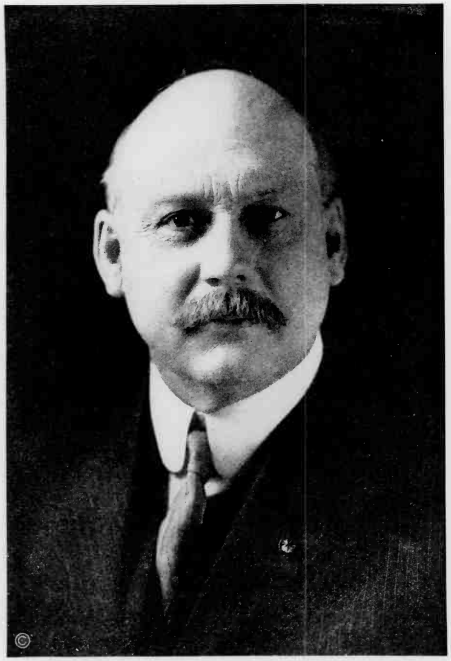

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THE spontaneous, widespread and favorable mention of John W. Weeks as a desirable candidate for the presidency for the Republican party warrants a close examination of his qualifications for this office, nominations for which will be made less than twelve months hence.

Mr. Weeks was born in Lancaster, N. H., April 11, 1860; was graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1881; served in the United States Navy as midshipman from graduation until 1883, served in the Massachusetts Naval Brigade ten years, from 1890 to 1900, the last six years of his service as commanding officer of the organization, served as lieutenant in the volunteer navy during the Spanish American War, commanding the second division of the auxiliary navy, has been mayor of the city of Newton, Mass., was elected to the Fifty-ninth Congress and took his seat in December, 1905, was a member of the following committees: Banking and Currency, Expenditures in the State Department, was re-elected to the Sixtieth Congress, in which he was a member of the same committees and the Committee on Agriculture, he supported the Aldrich-Vreeland currency bill and was a member of the Conference Committee which made material changes in it and added the important clause providing for the creation of the Monetary Commission, of which Mr. Weeks was appointed a member, he was re-elected to the Sixty-first Congress, and was chairman of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. He took an active part in getting reported from that committee and enacted into law the bill establishing postal savings banks. He framed and had charge of the forestry bill enacted into law at that session, was re-elected to the Sixty-second Congress, and introduced the bill for the protection of migratory and insectivorous birds, known when enacted into law as the Weeks-McLain bill. While a member-elect of the Sixty-third Congress, he resigned to take his seat as senator, March 4, 1913, in the Sixty-third Congress.

Until he began his service in the Senate, when he retired from business, Mr. Weeks was a banker. When he was a

candidate for the Senate, I made a statement from which I make the following quotation:

"I served with Mr. Weeks in the second session of the Fifty-ninth and in the Sixtieth and Sixty-first Congresses, and my conclusions are based upon my own observations.

"He is a very convincing speaker. He always impresses his hearers with his thorough knowledge of the subject with which he is dealing. While positive in his statements, he is persuasive in his manner, and what he says carries conviction. He has executive ability of a high order, and any matter of business intrusted to him receives prompt and intelligent consideration. This is of the first consequence to his constituents. A United States Senator has constantly a large number of business questions to deal with, many of them of vital consequence to the people of his state.

"Of Mr. Weeks's legislative capacity I wish to speak more at length, as it is one of his most striking gifts and one of great value to any cause he represents. I could give many illustrations, I will only speak of three. Mr. Weeks entered his service in the Fifty-ninth Congress. In the Sixty-first Congress he was appointed chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads, one of the most important of the House committees, making annual appropriations of over $200,000,000. He did not succeed to the chairmanship because of seniority, for he was a comparatively new member. He was transferred from another committee because he had the qualities the place demanded. The post office bill is as complicated as any of the great appropriation bills which come before the House. It is full of material for controversy from beginning to end, and every paragraph of it is debated. It occupies the attention of the House for several days. I remember that when Mr. Weeks brought in the bill the first time there was a good deal of curiosity to see how he would get along with it. His conduct won the admiration of the House. He defended it successfully at every point and showed great tact in dealing with complicated situations which arose from time to time. The bill was in such perfect shape that, contrary to the usual course, it was adopted by the Senate without amendment.

"The second instance I shall cite is that of the White

Mountain Appalachian bill, in which the people of this state were so much interested. The Committee on Agriculture, of which Mr. Weeks was a member, was about evenly divided on the proposition. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Scott of Kansas, a very strong man, was against it. There were three distinct stages involved. First, getting a majority of the committee to agree on a bill, second, getting the bill before the House, and, third, passing the bill through the House. Mr. Weeks successfully managed the bill in all these stages. I have no hesitation in saying that had it not been for him it would have failed. He marshalled the forces of the North and South so effectually that this great measure of conservation was put upon the statute book.

"The last illustration I shall use is that of the postal savings bank bill. The subject had been widely discussed. It had warm advocates and strong opponents. The matter was so delicate that it was taken up in the Republican caucus before it was introduced in the House. Mr. Weeks had efficient aid, but he managed the bill in the caucus and in the House, he was the man to remove the obstacles, to be insistent here, to yield there; in a word, to deal with a situation in which the convictions and prejudices of honest men were at variance and to produce a good result. I do not think of a Republican during my term of service who had more influence with the members of the House than Mr. Weeks, whose conclusions always commanded confidence. He has, too, an intimate practical knowledge of some of the most important departments of the Government service. Educated at Annapolis, he has a thorough knowledge of the needs of the navy, for which we are now appropriating vast sums of money in the expenditure of which a broad view of our needs should be coupled with wise conservatism.

"He was a member of the Monetary Commission and is most familiar with the practical and legislative aspects of this most important subject which must soon come before Congress for consideration and action."

Because of his familiarity with the subject, whatever he said about the navy had great influence. In the House, on one occasion, in reply to the argument that in the interest of international peace the naval plan should be curtailed, Mr.

Weeks insisted that a large navy is not for the purpose of menacing a neighbor but to protect our growing commerce. When the so-called "hazing bill" was before the House and the statement was made that twenty-six ships had been lost in twenty-five years and the deduction made that the personnel could not be of the highest efficiency, Mr. Weeks answered at great length, reviewing the cause of the loss of every ship since the Civil War, gave the name of the officer in command and the result of every investigation. The speech impressed the House with the completeness and accuracy of his information and with the soundness of his conclusions.

The Boston Globe said, May 7, 1906:

"The navy is lucky to have a man like Congressman John W. Weeks of Newton to speak for it; experienced, unprejudiced and moderate, depending only on the cold facts and not given to forensic fireworks, he is the very sort of man who can accomplish most in the national legislature."

The Army and Navy Journal said, May 19, 1906:

"The British military services enjoy the advantage of being represented in Parliament by men whose experiences in command on land or at sea, and whose professional training and knowledge enable them on occasions to enlighten civil ignorance concerning military matters. We have no similar representative of the services in our Congress, though occasionally an ex-officer of the army or navy does find his way through the usual channels of political preferment. A case in point is that of Representative John W. Weeks, a graduate of the Naval Academy, who served in the navy for six years after his graduation and again during the war with Spain. How intelligent an understanding Mr. Weeks has of naval conditions is indicated by the speech on the naval bill which he delivered in the House of Representatives, Saturday, May 5."

The Washington Times said, June 22, 1906:

"If the bill that passed the House the other day, nationalizing the naval militia, shall finally become law, it will mean a great advance for this branch of our armed forces.

"The provisions of the law—passed largely through the hard and earnest work of Representative Weeks of Massachusetts—will make each State organization liable for service in any other State on order of the President, and will also provide for the training of the men in this service by regular officers of the navy. Under the present system the naval militia has generally been coached by retired officers, and it has been a week's cruise each year on some warship, but these advantages will be greatly extended by the workings of the new law."

The Springfield Republican said, June 3, 1906, in speaking of the then new members of Congress:

"Of all of them, Mr. Weeks, Captain' Weeks, as a result of his naval service in the Spanish War, is the one who has most conspicuously and convincingly 'made good.' Fortunately for Mr. Weeks the affairs of the Naval Academy at Annapolis have occupied unusual attention during this session. Being himself a graduate of Annapolis—he resigned from the navy after a brief service to go into business—Mr. Weeks has naturally been looked upon as more or less an authority on naval matters, in spite of the fact that he is not on the Naval Committee. It was upon his final speech that those in charge of the bill in regard to hazing at Annapolis depended for its passage, and the event proved the dependence well placed. Mr. Weeks is not a showy speaker, he is merely clear and frank and there is no room for suspicion that he does not himself believe exactly what he says."

Mr. Weeks has always favored the development of our merchant marine. In a speech on this subject made on February 16, 1907, he said:

"Mr. Chairman, it must be admitted that it is a matter of some speculation just what legislation should be adopted to give the greatest impetus to our merchant marine and to put us in more direct communication with markets which are now reached either through indirect channels or not at all. The fact is, however, and it must be apparent to every one, that our merchant marine is at its lowest possible stage and that our direct communications with various sections of the world, especially those South American countries which should be among our best markets, and for whose products we should supply a market, are extremely unsatisfactory. If any business man were managing the entire business affairs of the United States, and there were millions of people producing a billion dollars of foreign trade, as is the case in South America, with whom he has no satisfactory connections, he would be utterly lacking in enterprise if he did not at once attempt to obtain some part of that trade; and even though his first attempts might be failures, he would continue to modify his methods until he had obtained a reasonable share of it. Adopting the same reasoning, I am in favor of passing this bill reported from the Committee on the Merchant Marine, although in many respects it lacks what I believe are the good qualities contained in the bill passed by the Senate last winter."

In the Senate Mr. Weeks is a member of the following committees: Banking and Currency; Post Office and Post Roads; Philippines; Coast Defenses; Conservation of National Resources; Forest Reservation and the Protection of Game; Public Health and National Quarantine; Indian Depredations.

Among the important speeches which he has made in the Senate was that on the Underwood-Simmons Tariff Bill, July 24, 1913. It was full of sound Republican doctrine.

"What we are concerned with," he said, "is the fact that the Republican party believes in placing a duty on articles of home production, raising sufficient revenue by so doing, and at the same time protecting the labor and capital engaged in the industry from unequal competition."

He emphasized with a wealth of illustration the fact, so often overlooked, that to keep our domestic prices low our manufacturers must be able to run their mills on full time—large production means low cost. He referred to President Wilson's statement that "a Democratic Tariff will whet the industrial wits," and added:

"Such a tariff is much more likely to sharpen the appetities of the workers than the wits of the employer, who in many cases, as can be easily demonstrated, is obliged to work his wits overtime in order to make a living under present conditions and rates of duty."

Another speech was made December 5, 1913, on the "Pending Currency Bill." The subject of finance is one of which Senator Weeks is a master and he treated it exhaustively. During the consideration of the bill in committee and in the Senate he secured the adoption of many important amendments. After contributing all he could, he voted for the measure, not because it met his views completely, but because he believed that the bill would greatly improve our banking system. Mr. Weeks was a member of the Monetary Commission, and might naturally have been over critical of the bill proposed by his political opponents, but in his characteristic way he co-operated cordially and was most helpful in shaping the legislation. On December 16, 1913, he spoke in opposition to guaranteeing bank deposits. At the close of his speech he said:

"Mr. President, this whole system, in my judgment, is the confiscation of good character. It is putting a man without record or reputation on the same level with a man who has a record and a reputation. Kipling makes the Tommy Atkins, who has lived a good part of his life in the indolent atmosphere of the East, say something like this:

Take me somewheres east of Suez, where the best is like the worst;
Where there ain't no Ten Commandments an' a man can raise a thirst.

"That is exactly what we are doing; we are making the best like the worst. We are not making the worst like the best. If we were going to make the worst like the best we would provide for better methods of examination; we would provide that only men of proven character should be put at the head of banking institutions; we would provide every means surrounding banks and banking methods which would be business-like and sound. But as we are proposing to act we are dragging the best down to the same level with the worst scoundrel who ever looted a bank. That is what I am opposed to. I favor any scheme that is proposed for making conditions better—for building up men rather than dragging them down. But in this case we are going to put all kinds of men—those who have proven their character and reputation, who have established a credit which is a part of their capital—on exactly the same level that we do the man who has never established a reputation and probably never would if he had the opportunity. It is fundamentally wrong; it is unmoral, if a thing can be unmoral in business; and it never ought to be countenanced in this body."

Senator Weeks believes that the railroads of the country cannot be properly administered without intelligent Government supervision, but he was opposed to the trade commission bill and the Clayton bill, his views upon which were well summarized in an address he made December 8, 1914, at Chicago, before the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, at the close of which he said:

"If there is force in what I have said it follows that the Government is not an economical but an expensive business agency, that commission or bureaucratic methods are likely to be harmful to business activities and extensions, that there is a tendency on the part of bureau officers to reach out for more power even if they do not assume authority which the law does not give them, that the red tape incident to Government methods is not conducive to the best interests of any business and may be instrumental in bringing it, as in the case of the railroads, to the verge of bankruptcy and that legislation similar to the trade commission bill places all business of any considerable volume in a strait-jacket which will retard its growth and increase the expense of operation without any corresponding benefits.

"Monopolies should not be tolerated unless they are of the character of the railroads or those incident to a patent, in which case they should be controlled. Consolidations should be permitted where the public interest will not be affected adversely by so doing. Competition in ordinary business should be encouraged and generally speaking it may be depended on to work out the best results for not only the producer but the consumer. The common law will provide means to prevent the operations of those who use fraudulent or oppressive methods. Punish the individual who violates the law but do not punish at the same time the entire trade with which he is connected, its business, employees and the community

which it serves. Remove all other handicaps from business, give it a real freedom, make efficiency rather than Government supervision and restriction its dominating influence."

On December 11, 1914, Senator Weeks spoke on the establishment of a military reserve and said, among other things:

"It is not for me to prescribe the size of the mobile army in the United States, but rather to invite attention to what is considered by men who have made a study of this question an adequate home defence and to show, if possible, how imperfectly this home defence has been provided. The War Department tells us the country needs for this defence 500,000 trained men, supplemented by from 100,000 to 200,000 volunteers. The nation has in the United States a mobile regular army of 31,500 enlisted strength and an organized mobile militia of about 104,000 enlisted strength and no available trained reserve. Certainly the War Department under these conditions cannot be held responsible for the disastrous outcome of an attack made upon this country. These figures presented by the War Department appear rather stupendous, but they are not inconsistent with what this country has been obliged to put in the field in most of its past wars, and until Congress furnishes the means to approximate the demands of the War Department the responsibility for the results of any war must be borne by Congress.

"I am firmly impressed with the idea that haphazard legislation has too long been indulged in with reference to the development of our military resources; that the questions of policy, of economy in maintenance, of effectiveness in the costly machine which we are forced to maintain, have not been intelligently met—certainly they have not been satisfactorily solved.

"I am heartily in favor of seeing such a body, a national defence council, legislated into prompt existence. Congress then would not be asked to provide for the policies and individual opinion of varying administrations and military committees, which so far have been ineffective and costly, but some definite scheme would be thought out for the economical development and maintenance of that part of our military resources considered necessary for our national defence.

"A man can only be an efficient soldier by subjecting himself to that training which will make him one. The nation lost the vast reserve of soldiers trained by five years of active service in the Civil War; it has no developed professional leaders except those trained in the regular army; it has failed to utilize as part of its developed military strength the men who have been trained and discharged from the regular army. Our militia, although composed of a fine body of capable men, cannot be considered as a whole a reliable fighting force at the outbreak of war. Our nation has neglected absolutely the lessons taught by its past defective military policy, and is persistent in the policy which our past history has shown to be foolish and exceedingly wasteful in human life and money.

"If the people of this country believe that this great nation cannot support an army of the size sufficient for its defence, it may be within the province of its representatives to prescribe the size of the army the nation believes it can afford; but they should then be prepared to assume the responsibility for the nation's undefended condition. This is perhaps within the province of Congress, but for Congress to dictate the organization of the army, especially when such is opposed to what all military experts of all nations say, is reprehensible; for, although Congress must assume the responsibility for the condition, it would have no power to avert the disaster which will in war afflict the nation because of this policy.

"Finally, I believe that laws should be passed at once which will reorganize the regular army. This reorganization should give the mobile army the proper proportion of infantry, field artillery, cavalry, engineers, signal, sanitary troops, the needed ammunition and supply trains, and provide for properly equipped depots. The law must provide that the men serve the shortest time with the colors necessary to train them as soldiers, and then pass them as soon as trained to a reserve, and that while serving in this reserve the men must be paid, and must further provide that service, in the reserve shall be at least three times the service with the colors, and this can be best done by dividing the reserve into three classes—the first to be composed of men who will be used to mobilize the organizations, the service in this class to be about three years and the men to be preferably unmarried; second class to be composed of men who will supply the wastage of a six months' campaign, service in this class to be three years and the men to be preferably unmarried; the third class to form the depot troops, service in this class to be approximately three years.

"A similar reserve to be provided for the militia, and as this reserve is a Federal and not a State asset the militia reserve should also be paid by the National Government. Laws should also be passed to provide trained commissioned officers for the reserve and for such volunteers as may be needed. A fine body of such reserve commissioned officers can probably be obtained from the discharged non-commissioned officers of the regular army and from the graduates at West Point, if the plan I have suggested were put into operation, by paying them such part of $300 as may be needed to purchase their uniforms and equipments."

As one would expect from a graduate of the Naval Academy, Senator Weeks is an educated critic of this branch of the service, and favors a strong navy thoroughly equipped with trained men and kept at the fighting edge by constant practice and manœuvres. Senator Weeks favored a merchant marine when a member of the House, as has been stated, and also in the Senate. In 1914 he introduced a bill, which passed the Senate, to take those auxiliary ships of the navy which might be available for the purpose and establish a line from the east coast of the United States, first to the west coast of South America, with the hope of gradually supplementing that line by the construction of mer-

chant ships, ships which would be available for cargo carrying and at the same time available for use by the navy in case of war.

Senator Weeks was strongly opposed to the shipping bill, so-called, providing for the Government ownership of merchant vessels, and in that memorable fight took a conspicuous part. He had the confidence of the members on both sides, and to him much credit is due for the failure of the majority, with the powerful backing of the Administration, to enact this legislation into law.

The Boston Globe and other Boston papers made the following comment:

"Reviewing the struggle as a near battle, Senator Lodge pays the warmest possible tribute to the intelligence, capacity, organizing ability and tenacity of Senator Weeks. The latter was the uncrowned general of the ship bill fight and had his forces perfectly organized. It was Mr. Weeks's business to see that every opposing vote was always ready and they never once failed. The forty-seven were at the scratch whenever wanted. Mr. Lodge says he never saw it equalled."

MENTIONED AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

During the winter of 1914-1915, without any suggestion from him or his friends, Senator Weeks was mentioned by many Republicans of all shades of opinion as an ideal candidate for the presidency. The feeling grew in strength as time progressed and extended over a continually increasing area of the country.

At the close of a session which had been practically continuous for two years, Senator Weeks went to the two expositions on the Pacific Coast for rest and recreation. He accepted some of the invitations to speak which his friends and colleagues pressed upon him, and apparently made a most favorable impression wherever he went. His journey led him through Kansas into Southern California, and thence up the coast to Seattle. In Kansas the Iola Register said under date of April 6, 1915.

"John W. Weeks is of national size and he is sure to be of national reputation. That was demonstrated by the reception that was given to him and to his message last week at Kansas City and at Topeka. In both these places he spoke to several hundred representative business men, and the impression he made upon them was one which any man may well be proud

to have made—the impression that he is a clean, capable, courageous, BIG man. He practiced none of the arts of oratory, he did not utter a sentence that bore the mark of careful polishing, but he SAID something every minute he talked, and when he finished every man who heard him felt that he had been listening to one who knew what he was talking about and who was not only informed but sincere.

"And that is the kind of a man John W. Weeks is. The writer of this was intimately associated with him in the public service for six years and he never knew a man who more fully measured up to the highest standards of such service. He mastered every subject to which his duty assigned him, he stayed by every task, however irksome, until it was finished, he followed public opinion when he thought it was right and he combated it when he thought it was wrong, and so he came by the divine right of the capable and the honest and the strong to a position of leadership in the House of Representatives. His best work in the House, perhaps, was done as chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, where his knowledge of the subject and his business judgment enabled him to bring in an appropriation bill carrying $300,000,000 which passed the Senate without the change of a figure or a word—an achievement never before attained. But he also did great work on the Committee on Banking and Currency and on the Committee on Agriculture. He was a member of the Monetary Commission, and he was recognized in the Senate, although he entered that body only two years ago, as one of the highest authorities on the subject when the new banking bill was under consideration. It was his influence, perhaps, more than that of any other senator, that was felt in the 480 changes that were made in that bill as it came from the House—changes that converted it from a bungled, impossible proposition to a measure that is at least worth a fair trial

"Mr. Weeks was born in New Hampshire on a farm. He was educated at the Naval Academy, intending to make the navy his profession. At the time of his graduation, however, there were no battleships in need of officers, so with the rest of his class he was discharged and found himself thus unexpectedly thrown back into civil life with neither trade, profession nor fortune. He began at the bottom, therefore, and it is wholly through his own efforts that while yet in middle life he has amassed a comfortable fortune. When he entered public life he was actively engaged in banking and in a number of other enterprises, and it is characteristic of him that when elected to the Senate he disposed of all his business interests so that he might give his whole time to the public service and be free from even the suspicion of being influenced by any private consideration in any official act.

"Being schooled in the history of his country and well grounded in sound principles of government, it follows that Senator Weeks has never followed off after any of the political vagaries that have been so prevalent throughout the country during these past few years. He has been just a Republican, a typical Republican, conservative as to principles, constructive as to measures, a statesman, not an agitator nor an experimenter.

He has been in entire sympathy with the sentiment that has resulted in the proper regulation and control of "Big Business," and he has no sympathy at all with the nagging and narrow propaganda which would apply the strait-jacket to all business.

"The mention of the name of Senator Weeks in connection with the presidency is due to no hint or suggestion of his own, and he refuses, with modesty that is characteristic of him, to discuss it. His friends are under no such restrictions, however, and they are responsible for the fact that it has already become a matter of wide and favorable comment. And the better the country becomes acquainted with him the wider and the more favorable is that comment sure to become."

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, heading its article, "A Man of the Hour," said:

"John Wingate Weeks, junior senator from Massachusetts, impressed his strong personality upon this section of the coast during his recent visit. He is a fine type of the business man in politics—the business man who entered politics via the front door, who has full faith in the integrity and patriotism of the business world in general and who would see no continued estrangement between the Government and business, but mutual helpfulness and confidence, and unselfish co-operation to conserve and promote the material interests of this great country.

"His convictions, sincerely entertained and courageously expressed, are not reactionary, but truly progressive, and his statesmanship is all the broader and more inspiring because practical and possessing the dominant quality of common sense.

"Trained for the navy, a graduate of Annapolis academy; schooled in finance in conservative Boston; a student in municipal affairs, with a record of good service as alderman; and a national lawmaker for years at Washington devoted to the public weal—his career has been full of usefulness, marked by initiative and crowned with merited success. He is a sturdy New Englander.

"Higher honor may be in store for him. His Republican colleagues in Congress to a man esteem him for his demonstrated worth. His section has ambition for him. On his own part he is dreaming no dreams. But this much is most apparent and involves no hazard of the future: The country has tired of the mouthings of political demagogues and the antics of adventurers, opportunists and blatherskites, and is now demanding constructive service at the hands of honest, capable and practical men. Among these John Wingate Weeks at this moment stands forth conspicuously and honorably, and bears the limelight test."

The Seattle Times, giving to its article the title "Senator Weeks and Prosperity," said:

"John Wingate Weeks, senator of the United States, has deeply impressed his views upon Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. In the series

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of remarkable speeches delivered by him here he has pointed out plainly the main trouble in domestic affairs, and he has suggested the remedy.

"What is the matter when the country has all the usual elements of prosperity, with prosperity lacking? Some extraordinary condition must have arisen to cheat the people. Senator Weeks has employed a single term to tell what it is—'over-regulation.' There is too much theory and too little practical knowledge. What is needed is a business man in the White House.

"It follows that Senator Weeks is a type of legislator most urgently needed in the United States to-day. Practical men are required in Senate and House, and in the executive department of the Government. They know the way to good times and could find it easily, if given the opportunity.

"On that account, the visit of Senator Weeks to Seattle assumes the character of an event. He has talked business as only a seasoned business man schooled in affairs of state can talk; and he has delivered a most timely and acceptable message of encouragement and cheer."

The argument of locality should not be urged for or against a candidate. We are to select a man for the presidency and not a geographical expression. A miracle of science has brought the entire area of our vast country within the sound of the human voice; we no longer contain within our borders warring sections—prosperity and disaster to any one state is shared by all the others. The "Liberty Bell," now making its impressive progress across the country, is held in as much veneration in California as in Pennsylvania.

The Republican party could not do better than to nominate Senator Weeks, a leader of proved capacity, already widely recognized; honest in thought, persuasive and convincing in argument, calm in his judgments; a man who has been tried in many positions of public trust and not yet found wanting; a man who has that rarest of gifts, the genius of common sense.

MSH 20600

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TITLE